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**Bahá'í Journal UK****Journal of the Bahá'í Community of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**
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In Memoriam

“As to the soul of man after death, it remains in the degree of purity to which it has evolved during life in the physical body, and after it is freed from the body, it remains plunged in the ocean of God’s mercy.”

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá: *Paris Talks*, p. 61)

These souls have recently passed on to the Abhá Kingdom. Please join us in remembering them, their families and friends in our prayers.

Una Dean, née Townshend, Knight of Bahá’u’lláh

Una Dean, daughter of Hand of the Cause of God George Townshend, was a devoted believer who served the Cause with distinction in Ireland and England before pioneering to Malta during the Ten Year Crusade, for which she earned the title Knight of Bahá'u'lláh. She also rendered loving assistance to her father, in particular with the completion of his influential work *Christ and Bahá’u’lláh*. She moved to Canada in 1957 and, with her husband Dick Dean, was a founding member of the Alberta Association of Families in Action for the Dependent Handicapped which advocated, and was successful in, accessing care for children with disabilities. She was much loved and well respected by all who knew her. She died in Edmonton, Canada, aged 81, survived by her daughter. “Her service to the Faith was characterized by devotion and steadfastness,” wrote the Universal House of Justice, “Her family, as well as her many friends and admirers are assured of our heartfelt prayers in the Holy Shrines for the progress of her radiant soul throughout all the worlds of God.”

Mary Lou Suhm, Knight of Bahá’u’lláh

Mary Lou Suhm, who has died aged 77, spent her childhood summers at Green Acre with her parents Curtis and Harriet Kelsey, meeting such luminaries as Louis Gregory. At the age of 29, she pioneered to Morocco where she was designated Knight of Bahá’u’lláh. A year later, Mary Lou contracted polio and lost the use of her legs. She and her husband returned to New Jersey where they raised three children. In 1988, she pioneered again – this time to Taiwan. She remained an active and devoted believer through many serious illnesses.

Mrs Farah Banou Hakim Farhadi, Windhoek, Namibia

Born in Tehran in 1927, Mrs Farah Farhadi was a daughter of the member of the first Universal House of Justice, Dr Lutfu’lláh Hakim and his wife Bahíyyih. Farah was a dedicated believer who served for some time on the Spiritual Assembly of Mahmoudeh. Her marriage to Mr Ata’u’lláh Farhadi was blessed with four children. Their home was often used for meetings of Iran’s National Spiritual Assembly and Mrs Farhadi was a gracious and hospitable host. She stayed in Iran after the 1979 revolution and escaped through Pakistan in 1985 when she went to live with her youngest, then unmarried, daughter who had pioneered to Namibia. There, she was adopted as the mother of the Namibian community and her service and hospitality to the friends continued in her pioneer post till the end of her life.

Hilary Lewis, Milton Keynes

Hilary Lewis had a deep-rooted sense of spirituality. When she accepted the Faith in 1967, she received a sense of fulfilment which she had not found in any other religion. Her husband and mother also embraced the Faith and devoted much of their life to teaching and administration. She was a devoted daughter, mother, grandmother and wife, sacrificially

nursing her husband through his final illness. In earlier years, she was a highly skilled pianist, who regularly gave concerts. She trod the boards in amateur dramatics and concert parties. She loved language and wrote prose and poetry of a very high standard. Her qualities of giving, listening, supporting and healing drew many friends to her in times of need.

Gwendoline Prince, Colwyn Bay

Gwendoline Prince was born in 1925. She became a Bahá'í in 1963 some years after her older sister Mary declared. Their brother Bill also declared the same year. Gwendoline had spent her life as a housekeeper to their mother who passed away in 1963. From their home in Leicester, Gwendoline, Mary and Bill worked for the Bahá'í Publishing Trust for four and a half years, managing the accounts and packaging up the books for delivery. They pioneered to Loughborough for two years and then to Colwyn Bay in north Wales where they served on the Spiritual Assembly. Gwendoline was a shy person who nevertheless persevered at teaching the Cause. She also loved to read, spending hours perusing the Writings and other Bahá'í literature.

Elsie Scott-Parker, Carlisle

Elsie Scott-Parker was born in Carlisle and worked as a nurse and a midwife in her home city as well as during a period in Canada. She became a Bahá'í in the late 1970s and was Secretary of the Spiritual Assembly for a while. She was a hospitable host to visiting travel teachers and, although she never married, loved children and always helped and supported the families in the community. She took a keen interest in international affairs and was a caring, helpful person.

Barbara Sposito, Ventnor Barbara Sposito declared on the Isle of Wight. She and her husband Brian, who was also a Bahá'í, pioneered to Orkney for 10 years and lived for a time at the Bahá'í Centre. They made many friends in the fishing community before Brian died in 1996, after which Barbara returned to the Isle of Wight where she made many friends at a local arts centre where she volunteered. She will be remembered as someone whose life revolved around supporting others. During her final illness in hospital, a friend she had been teaching declared.

Victor Daniell, Whitstable

Victor Daniell became a Bahá'í in 1995 at the age of 78. He was a well-travelled and well-read man who first heard of the Faith through the writings of Wellesley Tudor Pole. He felt that the Faith was what he had been waiting for all his life and did not hesitate to declare when invited. Although housebound and frail, he loved to receive visits from the friends and enjoyed saying prayers with them and recounting stories about 'Abdu'l-Bahá that he had been reading.

Lacey Crawford, Columbia, South Carolina

Lacey Crawford, who has died aged 81, was well-known to pilgrims and those serving in Haifa, as a devoted Bahá'í and an outstanding photographer. From 1968 until the mid-1990s, he was head of the international audio-visual department at the World Centre, while his wife Ethel led pilgrim groups. Lacey documented the holy sites of the Faith in Israel and Iran, and photographed International Conventions and conferences in other parts of the world on behalf of the Universal House of Justice.

